

"Wickland" (old Beckham Residence)
Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky

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HABS No. 20-5

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 20

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
G. M. Grimes, District Officer
304 Martin Brown Building
Louisville, Kentucky

Name of structure: "Wickland" (Residence)

Location: Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky,
about one-quarter mile east,
on U. S. No. 55.

Owner or
custodian: Mr. S. L. Guthrie, past owner.
Mr. Edward K. Poor, purchased July, 1935.

Address: Bardstown, Kentucky

Date built:
(approx) 1817

Architect
or builder: James Marshall Brown and John Rodgers.

Present
condition: Excellent

Number of
stories: Two stories and attic (finished);
and basement.

Material used
in construction: Foundation: Native stone.
Exterior walls: Brick.
Interior partitions: Brick and studs,
plastered.
Roof: Frame construction, covered with
wood shingles.
Floors: Wood, random width, ash;
basement: earth.

Description:
architectural
and historical This home of sixteen rooms was built for
Chas. A. Wickliffe in 1817 on a tract of
approximately 400 acres of land pur-
chased by him from Dr. Walter Brashear,
a famous surgeon, and an uncle of Mrs.
Wickliffe.

The place remained in the family until 1919, when
it was sold by the five children and heirs of Mrs. Julia
Wickliffe Beckham, youngest daughter of Governor Wickliffe.

Charles A. Wickliffe was born in Washington County, Kentucky, in 1789, and died in 1869. His wife was Margaret Crepps, daughter of Christian Crepps, a pioneer, killed in Indian warfare in what is now Bullitt County, Kentucky.


Many positions in public life were filled by Charles A. Wickliffe: Member of the Kentucky Legislature; Speaker of the House; Congressman; Lieutenant Governor; Governor, and Postmaster General in the Cabinet of President Tyler. By profession he was a lawyer and successful in his practice. In 1845 he was sent by President Polk on a secret mission to Texas and thus took a considerable share in bringing to its final consummation the annexation of the "Lone Star Republic". He died in 1869 leaving as his heirs his five living children: Governor Robert Wickliffe, of Louisiana; Mrs. Wm. M. Merriok, of Baltimore; Mrs. David L. Yulee, of Florida; Judge J. C. Wickliffe, of Bardstown, Kentucky, and Mrs. Wm. N. Beckham, of Bardstown, Kentucky. Wm. N. Beckham and his wife acquired the interest of the other heirs and it was their home.

His oldest son, Robert C. Wickliffe (1819-1895), after his marriage moved to Louisiana; held several public offices and was Governor of that State, 1856-1860.

Another son, J. Crepps Wickliffe (1830-1913) served with distinction in the Confederate Army; held several important positions: was a circuit judge, and United States District Attorney under President Cleveland.

The eldest daughter, Mary, married Judge Wm. M. Merrick, of Maryland, who served for many years as one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. Another daughter, Margaret, married Judge Joseph H. Holt, a member of the Cabinet of President Buchanan. Another daughter, Nannie, married David L. Yulee, of Florida, who became a United States Senator from that State. The youngest daughter, Julia Tevis, (1835-1913) married William Netherton Beckham (1832-1882), of Shelby County, Kentucky, in 1855, and "Wickland" was their home until their deaths. Of their ten children, five survive (1934), all born at "Wickland". Of their sons, the fifth and youngest, David Yulee Beckham (1874), is a Colonel in the Regular Army. The fourth son, J. Crepps Wickliffe Beckham (1869), has held numerous positions: Member of the Kentucky Legislature, three terms; from Nelson County; Speaker of the House, 1898; Lieutenant Governor, and became Governor in 1900, serving in that office eight years. He was United States Senator from 1915-1921.

APPROVED:


Author

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